Mrs. Mary Ferrell
4406 Holland Ave.,
Dallas, TX 75219-2133

9/17/93

Dear Mary,

I've never been other than apprehensive about Livingstone's book. Earlier this week or the end of last week Roger told me he had heard that that chapter had been excised. He did not tell me his source so he was told in confidence or thought he should regard it that way. My interest in sources on this would be evaluate whether that is being leaked for our benefit. Or, to lull one or more of us. If you are free to tell me your sources I'd like to know but only if it does not mean violating a confidence.

From a bookstore friend I've just received the enclosed two pages he tore from the C & G catalogue he had just received. I take this to mean that if there was a decision to remove that chapter it has to have been made after the catalogue was printed or was in the process of being printed. There may be another consideration: that chapter is one that cannot be hurt by Posner's book, so that might tempt C & G to leave it in.

I've been in a rather polite, sometimes tongue-in-cheek, one-way correspondence with Carroll. He knows I'm not in a position to sue and I've not indicated otherwise. But I am, in the phrase of lawyers, making him witting to how utterly undependable and error-prone Livingstone is. So awfully that when Carroll sent him my first letter to respond to and he sent it to Harry, Harry denied he had ever said such a thing and accused me of what to him is the worst possible crime; not having read his book. I then copied that page from his book and sent both to Carroll. More recently, and I have one ready to mail soon, I've been pointing out what I could have done to hurt Harry or the book and haven't. This includes destroying the bases he says each of these books has. In the last one I also suggested that he might want to consider what my options will be when the book appears with all those hurtful lies about me. I said that if I say nothing I tend to give them credibility. If I respond I'll sure as hell have to expose Harry and the books and I am well equipped to do that. The one I did when I had a few odd moments tell him that he should not assume that if I have to go publis I'll wait until after the book is out, anticipating it will do me more good. I told him of the supply of those awful letters I have, that I can take that up with the mayor or the COP and if they do not react that I'll see if the Baltimore Sun is interested, with the nonresponsiveness of the authorities an added point of possible interest for it. And much as I hate to I think that is the course I'll take. I've made extra copies of the catalogue pages and enclose them for when you see Garys or Dave Perry.

In this regard I call your attention to the catalogue adding to what Carroll himself told Publishers Weekly, issue dated 5/3/93, that we are all "accessories." The Maryland code that Peggy got from Zaid makes Harry a felon. If you have something like that down there and someone can call it to the DA's attention they might be prompted to do some-

The Maryland code prohibits alleging an indictable offense. This catalogue adds at least one more, fraud. I'll send a copy here. I've heard nothong from the states attorney since I wrote you and if the last thing I was told is the case today, they have not reached a decision.

Informally I have sent word to the Baltimore police internal affairs unit, and I do not know whether it got there, that in my own defense the time will soon come when I'll have to go public. I believe it will harm them less if they do what they believe is necessary so they can control the damage. But I've also said that if and when the time comes I'll do whatever it seems I should do in my own defense. I've heard nothing and have no reason to believe I will. But at least I'm giving those who should do something ample opportunity to do so and eliminating any cause of complaint that way.

I do hope you'll find it possible to keep me informed because at some point I may not be able to anticipate that may be useful. But I think the many months of my silence indicates I have no desire to go public. Besides, I want to use what time I have getting things on paper.

I've heard nothing from and gotten nothing from Posner. He promised me one of the first books and of all promotions. I did not even hear about At Random. I'll appreciate anything at all because if I have no other use for it I am trying to have a decent reflection of the anniversary as a record for history. I did that for the 25th and it takes up about 10 inches.

Before I got the book I was told of some of his unsourced references to me, some of which appeared not to be accurate. I asked him his sources, no response. He was in DC for several days and did not call from there. Not that I expected him to. I know he was interviewed by a Hearst reporter then because he phoned me afterward. I know Lardber said he was going to call Posner but I've heard nothing since. Posner will have more trouble conning Lardner than most reporters. And I do hope he tries!

When I arranged for the Willises to have an expense-paid trip to NY so he could show his unpublished pix to LIFE we had some correspondence and all I remember from that is that he said that Liebeler got the wrong girl

You say, I notice, that the best you'll be able to do is ignore the book when it is out. Think that over, and here is a point where I think a lawyer's advice might be of some importance. Also some research on Texas law. I think there may well be something like what Zaid found and then there were what I believe are illegal acts there, like Harry saying "I am the law" while Waybright flashed his Baltimore police credentials. If it is certain they are going to be so evil just for money it may be better if we go public first and make accusations against them publishing a man they know is not rational and who makes serious factual errors and they defaming people just for profit. Too bad Earl is still not on the paper there! Hope you are both as well as you can be. Our love,

Harold